

**Graduate and Research Council (GRC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 20, 2012**  
**1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

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**I. Chair's Report – Professor Valerie Leppert**

- CCGA (11/7)

Char Leppert reported that CCGA agreed to allow the campus to substitute two external reviews, one from a UC faculty and one from a non- UC faculty, in the CCGA review process.

- Meeting of the Division (11/8)

Chair Leppert thanked all GRC members that were able to attend. The main item of discussion was the proposed FTE request process. CAPRA was asked to make additional revisions to the proposed process before the distribution of the official budget call by the Chancellor's Office.

- DivCo Meeting (11/15)

DivCo members continued to raise their concerns regarding the composite benefit rates that are being proposed systemwide. DivCo will be sending a memo outlining the faculty concerns and campus need for multiple rates. Vice Chancellor for Administration Mary Miller will be invited to the next DivCo meeting.

- Graduate Dean Search Update

Chair Leppert conveyed GRC concerns to the search committee regarding the job description and need to increase the quality pool of applicants. As a result, the same search firm used for the SNS Dean and EVC searches will be hired.

**II. Consent Calendar**

- The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

- The graduate group volunteer to represent GRC on the Academic Honesty Task Force was unanimously approved.

- Following CRFs were approved as presented.

- POLI 212
- POLI 219
- POLI 223
- POLI 249
- POLI 252

**Action:** Senate Analyst will send approved CRFs to the registrar.

**III. Policy Subcommittee- Chair Sayantani Ghosh**

Subcommittee Chair Ghosh provided an overview of the [Proposed Open Access Policy](#) developed by University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (UCOLASC). This policy would expand open access to research publications by University of California faculty by changing the default relationship between faculty authors and scholarly publishers. Authors

would grant the University a non-exclusive license to the work and provide a digital copy of the final version of their published works to the California Digital Library.

**Action:** Chair Leppert and Senate Analyst will draft a memo and circulate for committee feedback. Chair Leppert will consolidate comments for forwarding to DivCo by November 28.

#### IV. **Request for GRC Review of SACAP Charge & Composition**

GRC discussed the present charge of the Senate Administration Council on Assessment and Planning (SACAP) that was jointly created by the Academic Senate and Executive Vice Chancellor. The committee's charge was recently discussed at DivCo and was recommended that both GRC and UGC review the charge and membership to ensure integration of academic and administrative assessment.

**Action:** Senate Analyst will draft memo and circulate for committee feedback. Chair Leppert will consolidate comments and send memo to DivCo.

#### V. **2013-2014 Fellowship Calls**

The Graduate Division requested clarification and approval on two changes to the 2013-2014 Fellowship Calls. One of the revisions made to fellowship guidelines was establishing a GPA requirement that would serve as a joint measure for review. Members were supportive of allowing more applicants by lowering the GPA requirement that would allow for exceptions to be made by each graduate program. As each graduate group puts a different weight on GPA, GRC agreed to respect each discipline and request one memo that would explain the overall graduate group ranking system used.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve lowering the GPA requirement for fellowship applicants.

**Action:** Senate Analyst will draft memo and circulate for committee feedback. Chair Leppert will consolidate committee comments for forwarding to the Graduate Division.

#### VI. **Executive Session- GRC Voting Members Only**

No minutes were recorded for this portion of the meeting.

#### VII. **Director David Ott, Office of Environmental, Health & Safety (2:00-2:30pm)**

GRC invited EHS Director Ott to discuss faculty consultation in research laboratory safety management and how the UCLA Lab Safety Settlement requirements will be met. Vice Chancellor of Administration Mary Miller attended to introduce David Ott who worked at UCLA before joining UC Merced. Director Ott provided a general overview of safety issues at UCLA. The settlement will require all campuses to write SOP requirements for any chemicals used from the listed 500 chemicals. UC Merced will need to comply with the requirement of SOPs by January 23. EHS will be hiring staff to help meet the training and compliance of SOPs.

EHS obtained a preliminary list of faculty who have any of the 500 chemicals and believe that a total of 18 faculty may be involved in making sure that the campus meets the January deadline. Director Ott will be meeting with Vice Chancellor of Research Traina on Monday in order to determine who are the faculty directly affected. In order to meet the first January deadline the campus will need to: finalize the SOPs and make sure anyone involved in research labs

completes the new mandated lab safety training. Faculty will be given an option of completing their training online.

Members agreed to send a formal request to Vice Chancellor of Research Traina to establish a joint working group for lab safety policy at UC Merced.

**Action:** Chair Leppert will draft memo and circulate for committee feedback.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Attest:

Valerie Leppert, Chair

Minutes Prepared By:

Mayra Chavez, Senate Analyst